

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for indicating quality of a radio frame transmitted over a wireless link, comprising:

receiving a radio frame from a wireless link;

5 determining for the radio frame a power indicator, the power indicator based on a power control trend of the wireless link; and

generating a quality indicator for the radio frame based upon the power indicator.

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2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the power control trend comprises a slope of power control commands for the link.

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3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the power control trend comprises a slope of power control commands for the link and at least one other link participating in a soft handoff with the link.

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4. A method for indicating quality of a radio frame transmitted over a wireless link, comprising:
- receiving a radio frame from a wireless link;
 - determining for the radio frame a bit energy
 - 5 indicator, the bit energy indicator based on a bit energy to interference ratio; and
 - generating a quality indicator for the radio frame based upon the bit energy indicator.

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5 5. A method for indicating quality of a radio
frame transmitted over a wireless link, comprising:
 receiving a radio frame from a wireless link; and
 determining a quality indicator for the frame based
upon a plurality of link parameters.

 6. The method of Claim 5, wherein the link
parameters comprise:
 a bit energy indicator, the bit energy indicator
10 based on a bit energy to interference ratio; and
 a power indicator, the power indicator based on a
power control trend of the wireless link;

 7. The method of Claim 5, wherein the link
15 parameters are weighed unequally in determining the
quality indicator.

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8. A system for indicating quality of a radio frame transmitted over a wireless link, comprising:

means for receiving a radio frame from a wireless link;

5 means for determining for the radio frame a power indicator, the power indicator based on a power control trend of the wireless link; and

means for generating a quality indicator for the radio frame based upon the power indicator.

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9. The system of Claim 7, wherein the power control trend comprises a slope of power control commands for the link.

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10. The system of Claim 7, wherein the power control trend comprises a slope of power control commands for the link and at least one other link participating in a soft handoff with the link.

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11. A system for indicating quality of a radio frame transmitted over a wireless link, comprising:

means for receiving a radio frame from a wireless link;

5 means for determining for the radio frame a bit energy indicator, the bit energy indicator based on a bit energy to interference ratio; and

means for generating a quality indicator for the radio frame based upon the bit energy indicator.

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12. A system for indicating quality of a radio frame transmitted over a wireless link, comprising:

means for receiving a radio frame from a wireless link; and

5 means for determining a quality indicator for the frame based upon a plurality of link parameters

13. The system of Claim 12, wherein the link parameters comprise:

10 a bit energy indicator, the bit energy indicator based on a bit energy to interference ratio; and

a power indicator, the power indicator based on a power control trend of the wireless link.

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14. The method of Claim 12, wherein the link parameters are weighed unequally in determining the quality indicator.

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15. A propagated signal, comprising:
a transmission medium; and
a quality indicator for a radio frame in soft
handoff transmitting on the medium, the quality indicator
5 generated based upon at least:
a bit energy indicator, the bit energy
indicator based on a bit energy to interference ratio;
and
a power indicator, the power indicator based on
10 a power control trend of the wireless link.

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16. A method for soft handoff, comprising:
receiving over a each of a plurality of soft handoff
links a radio frame;

for each radio frame determining a quality
5 indicator, the quality indicator generated based upon at
least:

a bit energy indicator, the bit energy indicator based on a bit energy to interference ratio;

10 a power indicator, the power indicator based on
a power control trend of the wireless link;

forwarding the frame and quality indicator to a base station controller; and

selecting one of the frames based on the quality
15 indicator.

17. A method for soft handoff, comprising:
at each transceiver in communication with one of a
plurality of soft handoff links for a connection:

- receiving a redundant radio frame;
- 5 temporarily holding the redundant radio frame;
- determining a quality indicator for the
redundant radio frame;
- transmitting to a frame selector the quality
indicator;
- 10 selecting at the frame selector one of the redundant
frames as a selected frame, such selection based upon the
quality indicator received from each transceiver;
- requesting the selected frame from the transceiver
holding the selected frame;
- 15 forwarding the selected frame for transmitting in
the connection.

- 18. The method of Claim 18, further comprising
discarding the redundant radio frames that are not the
20 selected frame.

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19. A system for indicating quality of a radio frame transmitted over a wireless link comprising logic encoded in media, the logic operable to:

receive a radio frame from a wireless link;

5 determine for the radio frame a power indicator, the power indicator based on a power control trend of the wireless link; and

generate a quality indicator for the radio frame based upon the power indicator.

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20. A system for indicating quality of a radio frame transmitted over a wireless link comprising logic encoded in media, the logic operable to:

- receiving a radio frame from a wireless link; and
- 5 determining a quality indicator for the frame based upon a plurality of link parameters.

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